

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANILA 20204 231024Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 /019 W  
-----001646 231200Z /13

R 230809Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9618

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 20204

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SHUM, RP (LAGMAN, HERMON)  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: HERMON LAGMAN

REF: STATE 301919

1. ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS' TASK FORCE ON  
DETAINEES CIRCULATED AS EARLY AS OCTOBER MIMEOGRAPHED  
HANDOUT ON LAGMAN WHICH CONTAINS FOLLOWING INFORMATION: QUOTE  
THIS IS AN URGENT APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING ATTY. HERMON  
LAGMAN WHO WAS PICKED UP BY ELEMENTS OF A MILITARY UNIT ON MAY 11,  
1977 BETWEEN BAGO BANTAY; QUEZON CITY AND PASAY CITY, METRO  
MANILA, PHILIPPINES, BETWEEN 7:00 AND 8:00 IN THE MORNING,  
TOGETHER WITH MR. VICTOR REYES, HIS ASSOCIATE IN THE LABOR  
MOVEMENT. UNTIL NOW, AFTER MORE THAN ONE MONTH, THERE IS  
NO TRACE OF INFORMATION AS TO WHERE BOTH ATTY. LAGMAN AND  
MR. REYES WERE TAKEN OR DETAINED. CONTINUOUS INQUIRY AND  
DETERMINED SEARCH BY PARENTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN ALL  
KNOWN MILITARY DETENTION CELLS AND CENTERS HAVE FAILED IN  
ASCERTAINING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE TWO. ATTY. HERMON  
LAGMAN IS A MILITANT AND UNCOMPROMISING ADVOCATE FOR  
WORKERS AND LABOR UNIONS SINCE HE ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVE  
PRIVATE PRACTICE OF LAW IN 1972. BECAUSE OF HIS CRUSADING  
SPIRIT AND DEDICATED ASSISTANCE TO THE CAUSE OF THE  
WORKINGMAN, HE HAS BEEN SUSPECTED OF BEING AN "ACTIVIST,"  
FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN DETAINED FROM DECEMBER, 1972 TO  
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FEBRUARY, 1973 BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND ALSO  
PICKED UP ON FEBRUARY 14, 1976 BUT SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED  
IN BOTH INSTANCE (SIC) FOR LACK OF CHARGES AND INCUPLATORY  
EVIDENCE. END QUOTE.

2. ACCORDING TO SAME HANDOUT, LAGMAN, 32 RECEIVED B.A. AND  
LAW DEGREES FROM UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP). HE

WAS MANAGING EDITOR OF UP STUDENT NEWSPAPER. HE  
HAD BEEN WORKING AS VOLUNTEER LAWYER FOR CITIZEN'S LEGAL  
AID SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND AS ADVOCATE FOR WORK-  
ERS AND LABOR UNIONS.

3. MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES HAVE INFORMED  
EMBOFF THEY HAVE NO MORE RECENT INFORMATION ABOUT LAGMAN  
AND STILL CONSIDER HIM TO BE MISSING. THEY FEAR HE WAS  
PICKED UP BY THE MILITARY, TAKEN TO AS "SAFE HOUSE," AND  
THEN LIQUIDATED.

4. LAGMAN IS THE BROTHER OF FILEMON LAGMAN, SECRETARY  
OF THE CPP/ML'S MANILA-RIZAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD  
CONTRADICT THE FOREGOING.  
NEWSOM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MANILA20204  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 301919  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS: HERMON LAGMAN  
**TAGS:** SHUM, RP, (LAGMAN, HERMON)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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